

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the Abstract to conform to U.S. patent practice. Applicant has amended claims 1-6 to clarify the description of the claimed invention and to remove the multiple dependencies. Applicant has added new claims 7-27 to describe subject matter previously described in multiple dependent format. No new matter is added by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. The fees in this application have been determined based on the entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the Undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 16, 2004

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